KEEPING IN

TOUCH

May-June 1996

The Joy You Heard on June 7 was Escrow Closing!

After months of delays the process of closing escrow on the West Hollywood property has finally begun. Agreement on financing for $2,800,000 of the $3,800,000 purchase price was reached on May 16th, just hours before the West Hollywood Planing Commission approved a conditional use permit application for the new UFMCC-

COVER STORY

MCCLA facilities. Rev. Elder Don Eastman, who with attorney Jan Stone of MCC Los Angeles, represented the local church and UFMCC in these negotiations said, "This has been our greatest challenge of the past year. We knew from the beginning that financing for churches is notoriously difficult. More than twenty financial institutions were approached before a successful agreement was reached. This is nothing short of a miracle!"

STEP BY STEP BY STEP BY STEP BY STEP

Commission Approves Permit Application

Following a marathon five-hour hearing on May 16th, the West Hollywood Planning Commission unanimously approved the application for a conditional use permit for the structures at 8704 and 8714 Santa Monica Boulevard, clearing away the most imposing hurdle in the Fellowship's quest to close escrow on its new headquarters building.

Although several neighbors of the prime property expressed strong opposition to the application by UFMCC and MCCLA, more than twenty residents urged approval of the project's use and design elements. Many of those who spoke were prominent figures in the West Hollywood community, including one man who was one of the founders of the city.

Presenting the case for approval of the application were Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, pastor of MCC Los Angeles and Rev. Elder Don Eastman, UFMCC second vice moderator. Also appearing was Cary Stevens of the architectural firm of Landa/Stevens, project designer.

■ **"On the dotted** line" is where both Rev. Elder Troy Perry and Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson signed to inaugurate the final paperwork stage of the transaction. June 7 is the anticipated closing date.

A FELLOWSHIP OF **PEOPLE**

Rev. Barbara Haynes was installed as pastor of Free Spirit MCC behind the walls of the California Institute for Women in Frontera on June 1. ☐ **Rev. Coleen Darraugh** was featured speaker at two events in the counselor education program at Texas West University during May. ☐ **Rev. Marge Ragona**, pastor of Covenant MCC in Birmingham, Alabama has begun a regular Bible study as an outreach to the Eastern Alabama region. ☐ **Rev. Victoria Mitchussen** has been appointed assistant pastor of congregational care at MCC Huntsville, Alabama. ☐ **Rev. Sharon Sloat** recently celebrated her first anniversary as pastor of Holy Spirit MCC, Des Moines, Iowa. ☐ **Clay Ollis** has been installed pastor of Gentle Souls MCC, a newly-commissioned church in Kansas City, Missouri. ☐ **Rev. Lew Broyles** has been appointed a member of the board of directors of SAGE, Senior Action in a Gay Environment, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. ☐ **Rev. Wayne Bradley** and **Mark Wojick** of Good Shepherd Parish MCC in Chicago, Illinois, served on a panel for a three-day interdisciplinary conference on Sex, Law and Society. ☐ **Rev. Peter Tradaris** celebrates an anniversary at Joy of Life MCC in Waukegan, Illinois. ☐ The holy union of **Vinette Roberts** and **Crystal Speaks** at MCC Philadelphia in May became more than just a ceremony. It became an event to demonstrate support of legal same-sex unions through the combined efforts of a large coalition of community groups. Men of All Colors Together, the local Freedom to Marry Coalition, Philadelphia Pride Festival and MCC Philadelphia joined forces to convey a powerful public statement. ☐ A fresh "crop" of MCCLA-trained clergy were approved for ordination in late May. **Dana Cagle, Sandy Williams, Barbara Haynes, Ken Kerr, Dawn Wilder**, and **Jorge Delgado** were all approved by the Southwest Board of Ordained Ministry. A Fellowship-wide list will be published in subsequent issues of *Keeping in Touch.*

MEMORIAL TRADITION

UFMCC Co-Sponsors International Event

The 13th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial and Mobilization, co-sponsored by UFMCC, was observed world wide on Sunday, May 19, 1996. The event, which began in San Francisco in 1983, honors the memory of those who have died of AIDS, demonstrates support for people living with HIV and AIDS, and mobilizes community-based responses to HIV/AIDS. Many Metropolitan Community Churches continue to be the primary organization responsible for the event in their local community.

"Our theme this year was 'AIDS Discrimination Is A Global Epidemic,'" program director Ben Carlson said. Additional information about HIV/AIDS discrimination is available on the Candlelight Program's new site on the World Wide Web: www.hooked.net/users/candle.

HIV-AIDS REV. STEVE PIETERS

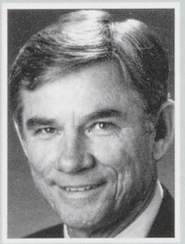
Quilt Available to Local MCC Churches

Small segments of the Names Project Quilt are available to local MCC churches through the National Interfaith Quilt Display Program. Displaying the quilt provides a special opportunity to encourage awareness, education, and spiritual reflection around the issues of HIV and AIDS. A display of the quilt is a powerful way to motivate your community to show respect and compassion for those affected by AIDS.

The National Interfaith Quilt Display Program allows religious institutions to display small portions of the quilt for a maximum of 30 days. The fee structure is based on $200.00 for each twelve-foot square section with the option of displaying up to four sections. If a Names Project chapter is located near you, contact the chapter. If there is no chapter in your area, or it is unable to fulfill your display request, contact Judy Noddin, Display Coordinator for an application and further instructions. She can be reached at The Names Project Foundation, 310 Townsend Street, Suite 310, San Francisco, California 94107. 415/882-5500, fax 415/882-6200.

FEATURED AT **LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

Bishop Leontine Kelley
Opening Address



Tex Sample
Keynote Plenary

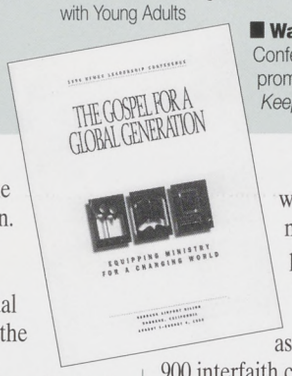
Marsha Raulston
Plenary: A Woman's Place

Rev. Eric H. F. Law
Institute: Leadership for a Global Generation: Process for Including and Empowering People of Colors for Local Church Leadership

Garland Pierce
Institute: Building a Bridge to the Future: Ministering to and with Young Adults

Rev. Sherman Hicks
Guest Preacher

■ **Watch for more** Leadership Conference information in promotional mailings and *Keeping in Touch*.



There is a 90 day timeline to process the application.

The entire AIDS Memorial Quilt, an expected 45,000 individual panels (twice the size of the 1992 Washington D.C. display), will be unfolded on the Mall in Washington D.C. during the weekend of October 11-13, 1996. Because of this undertaking, all other display activity will be closed between August 1 and November 22, 1996.

HIV-AIDS REV. STEVE PIETERS

Caregiver Grants Available to Churches

Grants of up to $25,000 to develop HIV/AIDS interfaith caregiving ministries are available to MCC churches through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Faith in Action Initiative. The grants are designed to fund projects replicating the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers program pioneered in Kingston, New York, which has demonstrated that religious organizations of all faiths can form effective coalitions to provide home-based volunteer services, care, and companionship to individuals living with HIV/AIDS. This new program will provide up to $25,000 to each grantee, and will offer technical assistance to more than 900 interfaith community coalitions established by faith congregations to develop interfaith caregiving ministries for people of all ages with chronic health conditions. The Johnson Foundation is particularly interested in funding HIV/AIDS ministries. The final date for filing is June 30, 1996.

For more information, technical assistance, or to receive application materials, contact: Dr. Kenneth G. Johnson, Health Services Center, Post Office Box 2290, Kingston, New York 12401. 914/331-0016, fax 914/331-4191.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE NATHAN MECKLEY

Leadership Conference Features Institutes

Over the next decade, massive changes are predicted in the fields of communication, social trends, and

within the church. Is your church prepared? UFMCC Leadership Conference will focus on equipping MCC ministry to meet current and future opportunities and challenges in this changing environment.

Reflecting an increasingly multicultural community, this year's Leadership Conference includes conference offerings by the Ministry of Diversity in Spiritual Community.

While networking, fellowship and celebration are always enjoyed at MCC conferences, continued training for local church leadership is an important opportunity not to be missed! In addition to plenary sessions and workshops, two institutes are scheduled for Leadership Conference. The "institute" format, which encompasses a few hours in length, has been used at previous conferences. Unlike plenaries and workshops which last 45 to 90 minutes, the longer format allows for deeper examination and concentrated training on a specific topic.

Leadership for a Global Generation: Process for Including and Empowering People of Colors for Local Church Leadership
Friday Afternoon, August 2
Rev. Eric Law, Facilitator

Rev. Eric Law is a consultant and trainer in multicultural organization development and author of *And the Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb: A Spirituality for Leadership in a Multicultural Community* (Chalice Press). This institute will examine questions of culture and cultural differences, how differences in culture affect interactions, and how these cultural differences specifically affect people of colors' experiences in leadership. Emphasizing communication and perceptions of power, participants will explore these issues and more in both theological and societal contexts. Following this institute, participants will possess useful tools to apply at their local church level. Participants are encouraged to read Rev. Law's book (which is available through the UFMCC Resource Center) prior to the institute.

Building a Bridge to the Future: Ministering to and with Young Adults
Saturday Afternoon, August 3
Garland Pierce, Kharma Amos, Facilitators

Garland Pierce is youth intern for the U. S. office of the World Council of Churches, and Kharma Amos was Coordinator of Young Adult Programming at the 1995 General Conference in Atlanta. Focusing on adults aged 18 to 30, this institute will engage the issues and questions in regard to involving young adults in the local church. Participants will gain greater understanding of how their local church can enhance ministry with this specific age group. MCC can make a difference in the lives of young adults and young adults will make a difference in the life of MCC! Young adults are especially encouraged to attend this conference and institute.

Both institutes are included with conference registration and are open to all registrants. Leadership Conference will be held Thursday, August 1 through Sunday, August 4, at the Burbank Airport Hilton in Burbank, California. A registration coupon appears on the outside wrapper of this issue.

■ **Leadership Conference** arrives at Burbank, California and the Airport Hilton in August.

MOBILIZE REV. ELDER NANCY WILSON

Ten Steps of Advocacy for Your Church

At a prayer breakfast I attended earlier this year to honor Rev. Dr.

Martin Luther King, Jr., a Muslim speaker and an Israeli leader both let us know that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "belongs" not only to African-Americans, and not only to the United States, but to the world. His legacy is that peace with justice is possible, necessary, and that the church needs to be visible and in the forefront of making peace and justice a reality in every culture.

MCC's three-point gospel of salvation, community, and Christian social action is needed now more than ever! Every MCC needs to take a visible role in our community in advocating for civil rights, human rights, peace and justice. In some locations, this will require even more courage and creativity than others.

As the millennium draws near, the forces of the Religious Right are strengthening their message and activities the world over. Their goal is to create "theocracies" where their version of Christianity eliminates religious and civil tolerance. We cannot be silent or complacent, nor can we take a back seat.

I suggest ten strategies for taking responsibility for this mission and using the opportunities the current political/social climate offers us:

1. **Find your allies**–There are individuals, agencies, churches, synagogues, and mosques, who can and will make common cause with your local MCC. Knock on their doors. Join their coalitions.

2. **Speak out with others**–You don't have to do it alone. Lend your public voice to local issues that reflect MCC values.

3. **Be an advocate for others**–We often get accused of being a "one-issue" church. Be out there advocating for children, for persons with AIDS, for women, for prisoners. But don't spread yourself too thin. Pick one issue to start with.

4. **Where are the poor in your area?** Are you there with them in visible ways? There are simple ways to get involved: food drives, local policy issues, homeless shelters.

5. **Race relations.**–How are they locally? Who are the heroes/bridge builders in your area? Invite them to speak at your church. Stay current on the local issues. Help those who are trying to improve racial understanding in your area.

6. **Media contacts**–Find at least one (more) positive media contact (newspaper, magazine, radio, TV) and take them to lunch. Do this before there is a crisis, so when there is one, you have a friend.

7. **Political contacts**–Get to know politicians of all parties and help the good ones, whoever they are. There are some! Support them. Pay special attention (in the U.S. especially) to school board elections.

8. **Register voters**–Strive for 100% registration for eligible persons in your congregation. Enlist members as registrars. Help immigrants who cannot vote to be informed of their rights and offer support and information.

9. **Open the church**–Embrace the whole community through "family" days, special civic celebrations, honoring teachers, PFLAG, or health care workers. Let the whole community see you, "get used" to you, so MCC is more "ordinary" and not so unusual or exotic. As Rev. Perry says, "To know us is to love us."

10. **Be a good neighbor**–Become a positive, visible, sane, spiritual breath of fresh air in your community and a decent, caring neighbor.

A FELLOWSHIP OF **ACTIVITY**

Holy Covenant MCC in Hinsdale, Illinois recently received the "Beyond Our Wildest Dreams Award" from Community Response, Inc. for the church's outstanding service to HIV/AIDS persons. ☐ A spring prom was hosted by **Tree of Life MCC** in Ypsilanti, Michigan. ☐ **Trinity MCC** in Arlington, Texas celebrated a Kickoff Sunday to launch its bond campaign, collecting almost $300,000. ☐ **MCC Knoxville** was a participant in the recent visit to the area of Olympic medalist Greg Louganis. ☐ A new support group to assist bisexuals, gay men and lesbians who are dealing with sexual identity issues has been launched by **MCC New Haven**, Connecticut. ☐ **MCC Manila** has begun publishing a new quarterly newsletter called *Dignity*. ☐ **MCC of the Cornerstone** in Mobile, Alabama has dedicated its new church building. ☐ An anonymous on-site HIV testing program has been started by **St. John's MCC** in Raleigh, North Carolina in cooperation with the Wake County Health Department. ☐ The choir of **St. Jude's MCC** in Wilmington, Delaware was recently invited to perform for a new Methodist congregation. The event was so successful that a return invitation has been offered. ☐ The congregation of **MCC of the Rainbow**, Jackson, Mississippi, has entered into a real estate transaction to purchase a property. ☐ **MCC Charlotte**, North Carolina is offering a program for persons who have experienced the trauma of Exodus International or other so-called ex-gay movements. ☐ **Cathedral of Hope MCC** in Dallas, Texas is exploring the possibility of starting a branch in the Sherman-Dennison area. The effort will be coordinated by Rev. Alice Jones. ☐ **Good Shepherd Parish MCC** in Chicago, Illinois provides postcards at each service for members to write a special greeting or "miss you" note to someone not in church that morning.

■ **Top–**During a recent trip to Australia, representatives of the UFMCC met with the Sydney on-site committee. **Above–**One of the highlights of the trip was the dedication of MCC Wollongong, a new MCC presence in Australia.

EXCEL WEEKEND OPPORTUNITIES

Excel Announces Summer Dates

Excel International has announced dates of Excel Weekends through the end of 1996: **June 7-9** Three Corners Excel, Navroo, Illinois; **July 19-21** Excel of the Lakes, near Chicago, Illinois; **August 30-September 1** Excel Europe, Hamburg, Germany; **October 4-6** Excel of the Lamb, Florida; **October 4-6** Excel of the Armadillo

CONFERENCE NATHAN MECKLEY

Planning Continues for Sydney General Conference

Great hospitality, productive meetings and beautiful weather characterized the recent conference planning trip to Sydney, Australia. Ravi Verma, director of administration, and I were in Sydney in late March and early April to meet with local personnel, visit several hotels and venues, and deliberate with travel and tour personnel in preparation for next year's General Conference. On-site coordinator, Rev. Robert Clark, and the local organizing committee have begun important preparations. These recent meetings allowed for further clarification of goals to be met over the next several months.

As affirmed by General Conferences in 1993 and 1995, General Conference 1997 will be held in Sydney from July 20 through 25. The official conference travel package (which will include round-trip airfare, lodging, and other features) will be prepared and premiered at the UFMCC Leadership Conference in August. Questions regarding travel or lodging should be directed to Above and Beyond Tours, phone 800/397-2681.

■ **Above–**Sydney is known for friendly inhabitants of all sorts!

As well as conference planning, we enjoyed fellowship with several local MCC congregations. We were privileged to attend the dedication of the newest MCC church in Australia, MCC Wollongong. More than 100 attended the Palm Sunday dedication of this new work, formerly an extension of MCC Sydney. It's located in the third largest city in the state of New South Wales, about an hour south of Sydney.

In addition, I preached at MCC of the Good Shepherd in Sydney, and Ravi and I each later worshiped with MCC Sydney.

Throughout our brief stay we consistently encountered the genuine warmth and hospitality of MCC "Sydney-side." MCC members throughout Australia and the world are already planning for 1997 with much anticipation and enthusiasm. I'm confident that General Conference in Australia will be a great moment for UFMCC.

HUMAN RIGHTS SOUTH AFRICA

Historic South African Bill of Rights Protections

In a historic first, lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals are now protected by a national constitution. Effective May 8, the South African Bill of Rights began protecting our community

from discrimination by both the state and private sectors. The "Equality Clause" of the Bill of Rights protects persons from unfair discrimination on the basis of "race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, color, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language, and birth."

It is the legacy of the anti-apartheid struggle which created a serious commitment to the elimination of discrimination on any basis in South Africa. Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons have played a key role in both the liberation struggle and in the creation of a new South Africa. As a result of these two factors South Africans will now enjoy the historic constitutional protection of the rights of gay men, lesbians and bisexual people.

Members of MCC say that this resulted from the commitment of the African National Congress which constitutes over 60% of the constituent assembly, and from the support of leading liberation figures including President Nelson Mandela, who on the occasion of his inauguration as State President on May 9, 1994, included lesbians and gay men as equally protected citizens in his vision for a new South Africa. Archbishop Desmond Tutu strongly urged the constitutional assembly to retain the clause in the Bill of Rights, and has recently stated that rejection of gays and lesbians by the church is "nearly the ultimate blasphemy."

UFMCC Founder and Moderator, Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry said, "The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches applauds the people of South Africa for their commitment to the human rights of all people and wish to convey our heartfelt congratulations. The inclusion of sexual orientation as an enumbered right in the South African Bill of Rights was achieved through the combined efforts of gay men and lesbians and allies who were involved in the initial constitutional lobbying process. I am thankful for those members of our two congregations in South Africa, Reforming Church MCC and Deo Gloria Family Church MCC, who were a part of that lobbying process."

GLOBAL OUTREACH REV. JUDY DAHL

ICM Buenos Aires Continues Struggle for Justice

ICM Buenos Aires has been very involved in the national and local struggles for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender peoples since it's inception. In the legacy of their former pastor, Rev. Roberto Gonzalez, their current Pastoral Leader, Sr. Alejandro Soria has continued to carry the banner of liberation along with others who represent MCC in Argentina.

During Holy Week, ICM Buenos Aires was asked to bring two workshops to a National Conference for the trans-lesbigay community. Oscar Benetiz, a member of ICM Buenos Aires and Alejandro were the chief coordinators for this premier event in Argentina. MCC has a central position in the ongoing pursuit of justice for our people in this country.

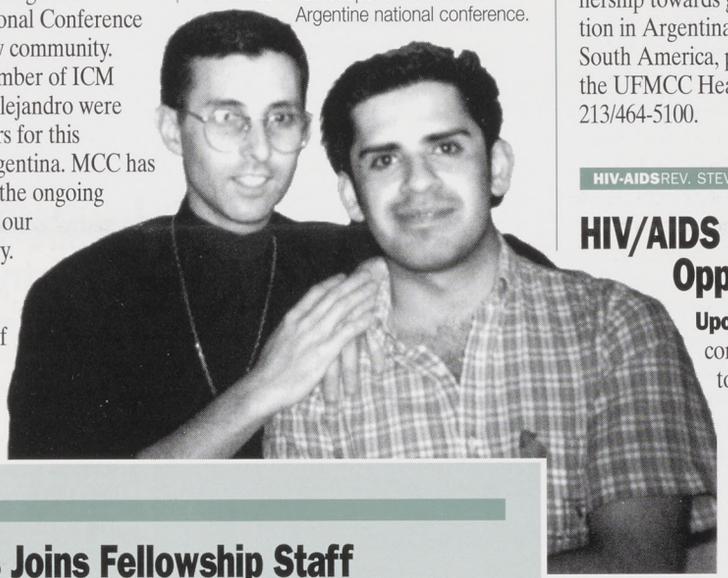
Not only do they continue to struggle for the rights of all of us at a national level, but they have been forced to hire an attorney to fight a resolution of "negative standing" concerning the status of ICM Buenos Aires.They will seek a hearing with the Minister of Justice to reconsider their status. Please keep them in your prayers.

Alejandro reports that in spite of or perhaps because of these ongoing struggles, their church continues to grow in numbers and spirit. They have formed Wednesday night "chat groups" which has helped them gain access to a broader group of people. This type of outreach, along with their visibility on the front lines of justice-seeking caused one of the countries biggest magazines to do an article on Alejandro and his work with ICM Buenos Aires. He was featured in *Flash* in a very positive light and Alejandro believes this will continue to be an outreach for ICM.

Recently they have increased their AIDS ministry. They spend time going to the parks passing out condoms and brochures. The last time they did this they wore their MCCLA t-shirts which say "No More Homophobic Religion." Alejandro says the response was terrific.

They are in a new dialogue with MCC Hamburg. They have apparently really captured this idea of "partnership" with other MCC's around the world. One of our churches is sending them altar cloths and two other churches make monthly contributions. One of their main goals for 1996 is to move from their existing structure which has become to small for them into a larger more visible setting. Pray with us and for us too accomplish this goal!

If you would like to join this partnership towards growth and connection in Argentina and eventually South America, please contact me at the UFMCC Headquarters 213/464-5100.



■ **Alejandro Soria and** Oscar Benetiz conducted workshops for a recent Argentine national conference.

WELCOME TO UFMCC

Rev. Maggie Tanis Joins Fellowship Staff

Rev. Maggie Tanis will be joining the Fellowship Staff in July 96 as the Director of Clergy Development. Currently, Maggie is an Associate Pastor at MCC San Francisco where she is responsible for development and implementation of small groups and programs, pastoral care, counseling, regular preaching and worship participation, children's programming, and outreach events. From 1991 to 1994 she served as the pastor of Ke Anuenue O Ke Aloha MCC in Hawaii. She also served as the Interim Pastor at MCC Boston from 1990 to 1991. Before assuming this position, she had served as Program Staff at MCC Boston since 1988.

Maggie has a master's degree in divinity from Harvard University and a bachelor's degree in international relations, *cum laude*, from Mount Holyoke College. According to Maggie, she is "very excited about working with the General Council, the Boards of Ordained Ministry and the current CCCC as we continue to make real and put into practice the process envisioned by the General Conference."

She adds, "My commitment is to helping our clergy, those who are pastoring now and those who will be in the future, to be the best possible pastors that they can be. I hope that I can help people find the tools and resources that they need to accomplish all they are called to and all they want.

HIV-AIDS REV. STEVE PIETERS

HIV/AIDS Conference Opportunities

Upcoming HIV/AIDS conferences of interest to UFMCC:

July 7-12 Eleventh International Conference on AIDS Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. To register, contact the Conference Secretariat, Post Office Box 48740, 595 Burrard Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, V7X 1T8. Phone (Canada and US): 1-800-780-AIDS; Worldwide phone: 604-878-9995; fax 604/668-3242; e-mail: <aids96@hivnet.ubc.ca>. WWW: <http://unixg.ubc.ca:780/~aids11/aids96.html>

July 13-17 U.S. National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference and AIDS/HIV Forum Westin Hotel, Seattle, Washington. To register, contact NLGHA '96 Conference, Post Office Box 33022, Washington, D.C., 20033, fax 202/659-5559.

October 10 - 13 U.S. National Skills Building Conference Washington, DC.

DOINGJUSTICE

Rev. Mel White

The "Soul Force" principles of Jesus, Gandhi, and King have inspired and informed my own spiritual journey in more ways than I can tell you. And I didn't even know about them until Lynn Cothren, the executive assistant to Coretta Scott King, pointed me towards the original writings from which they come.

The "Soul Force" principles were inspired by Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, shaped by Gandhi's non-violent (Satyadraha) movement, and imported to America by Martin Luther King, Jr. Gandhi and King didn't take time to outline the principles. They were too busy putting them into practice.

Now, after reading the original sources (including 90 volumes of the collected writings of Gandhi) and after experimenting with them myself for the past three years, I am writing *Storming the Gate: A Gay Christian Discovers the Soul Force Principles of Jesus, Gandhi and King.* I hope the partial list that follows will inspire you to go back to the original sources and discover the "Soul Force" principles for yourself. They are re-shaping my whole life and ministry. I hope you find them helpful.

We will succeed in our struggle for justice and liberation:

1. by believing that God is on the side of justice and truth.
2. by refusing to remain silent and inactive in the face of injustice and untruth.
3. by believing that within everyone (even our worst adversary) there is an amazing potential for positive change.
4. by seeing our adversary not as an evil person but as a victim of misinformation as we ourselves have been.
5. by trying to win our adversary's friendship and understanding.
6. by persuading our adversaries on the basis of truth alone, without half-truth, lie, or exaggeration.
7. by speaking the truth in love.
8. by speaking the truth in love relentlessly, refusing to break off negotiations, even with our most "hopeless" adversary.
9. by attacking the false idea, not the person, who holds that idea.
10. by believing that it is as much a moral obligation to refuse to cooperate with evil as it is to cooperate with good.
11. by insisting the means must be as pure as the end.
12. by creating a network of allies and by insisting that the spirit of Soul Force (love, truth, humility and forgiveness) guide our relationships with our allies as with our adversaries.
13. by refusing to participate in any form of physical violence.
14. by avoiding internal violence of the spirit (hate) as well as physical violence.
15. by accepting and absorbing suffering without retaliation.
16. by not fearing death.

We will succeed in each Soul Force action only when we:

1. commit and recommit ourselves to the non-violent Soul Force principles.
2. research the case against our adversary carefully, in print, audio, and video.
3. negotiate with our adversary first, amicably, carefully, relentlessly.
4. educate the media, our allies, and the allies of our adversary if negotiations fail.
5. confront our adversary (picket, fast, etc.) only to move negotiations forward.
6. reconcile with our adversary, which is the ultimate goal of Soul Force.

These Soul Force principles come directly from the writings of Gandhi, Mohandas K.; especially *An Autobiography: The Story of My Experiments with Truth and Satyagraha in South Africa*; and King, Jr., Martin Luther; *A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings and Speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, edited by James M. Washington, 1996.

For information and registration, contact 1996 National Skills Building Conference, 1931 13th St., NW, Washington, DC 20009-4432; phone 202/483-1124.

ORDINATIONUPDATE

Board of Ordained Ministry Meeting

The dates of the organizational meeting of the Board of Ordained Ministry have been changed to July 30 and 31, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Burbank Airport Hilton. This will be a training session for all BOM chairs to help this process proceed smoothly. The transition team hopes that all who attend will plan to stay for Leadership Conference, which begins August 1. Call Rev. Pat Bumgardner with any questions: 212/629-7440.

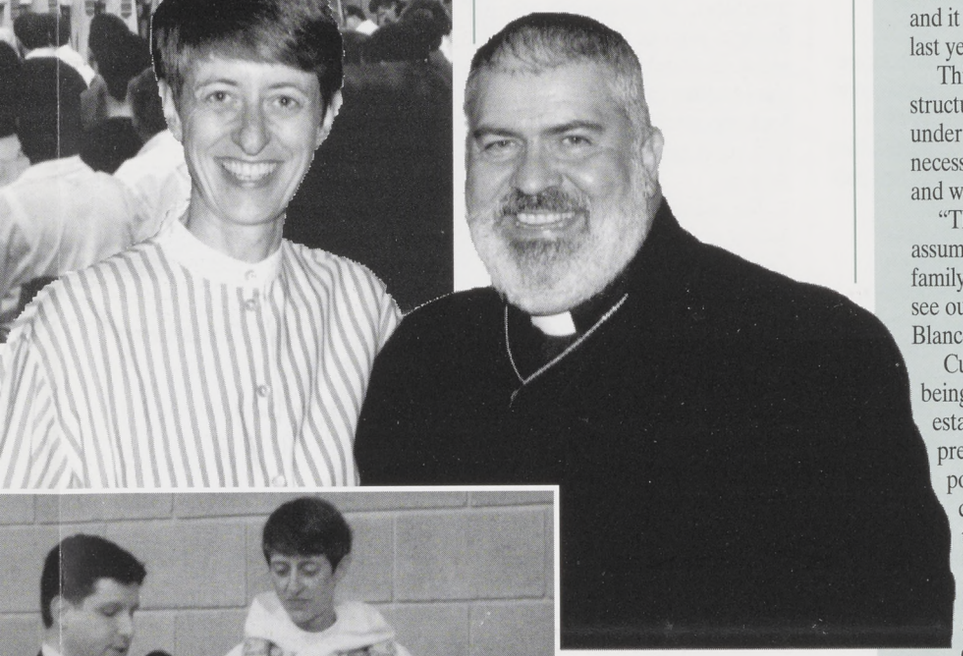
HANDS ON REV. BRENT HAWKES

Excellent Source for Church Growth Ideas

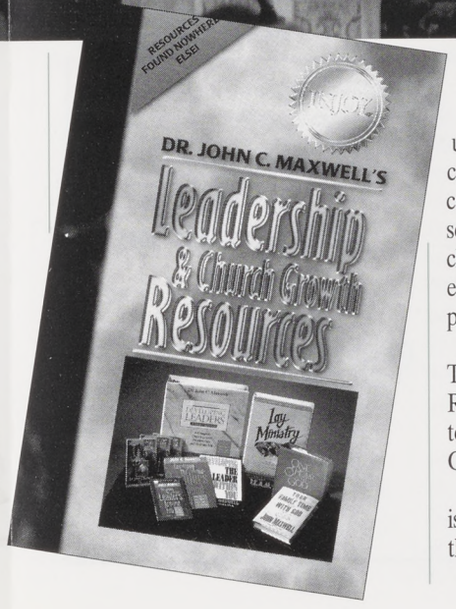
As senior pastor of MCC Toronto, I constantly keep my eyes open for good resources for church growth. One of the keys to church growth is effective leadership. There are countless resources to choose from offering various directions and philosophies. It is true that "effective leadership" is just that, but when extending leadership training to staff and volunteers, I find new ideas are easier to grasp when put in the context of "how do these skills apply to our church."

One excellent resource that offers good leadership training for church leaders is the InJoy Life Club by Dr. John C. Maxwell. John Maxwell is a church growth expert who was the pastor of a large church in the United States. He has subsequently resigned from the church to work solely on church growth. Dr. Maxwell offers excellent workshops on leadership and stewardship and has written a number of books on the same topics.

The main resource from John Maxwell which I would like to draw to your attention is the InJoy Life Club subscription-based Leadership Growth Series audio tape workshops. The material is excellent, however we must remember that Maxwell is not where we are on gay, lesbian, race and gender issues. When we come across comments or notions which we find offensive, we simply stop the tape and discuss how the process would apply to us at MCC. Fortunately, this does not happen very often, but caution should always be observed whenever presenting this material.



■ **Left–**MCC Washington celebrated its 25th Anniversary recently with worship held in its award-winning building. **Below–**Rev. Troy Perry was the guest of MCC Washington and pastor Candice Schultis. The church was honored for its commitment to the Washington-area lesbian and gay community.



Upon subscribing you will begin receiving monthly audio cassette workshops in the mail. The cassettes come with a worksheet that allows the user to take notes in point form. We photocopy these to keep the original clean for future use. You will also receive a stick-note pad with a quotable quote printed on it. These usually arise out of the many quotes in the workshops.

These audio workshops are easy to use because you can pop it into the cassette in your car to evaluate or you can gather a group in a classroom setting. They are certainly faster and cheaper than reading a book and can easily be shared with other leadership people in your church.

Some recent workshops include: Ten Tradeoffs Usually Worth Making; Resigning the Right Way; Eleven Keys to Excellence; and Change, Growth or Grief?

The cost for a one-year subscription is $135 U.S. to anywhere in Canada or the United States. You can call

A FELLOWSHIP OF **CONGREGATIONS**

MCC in France: Activity Centers on Centre De L'Esprit Liberateur's New Building

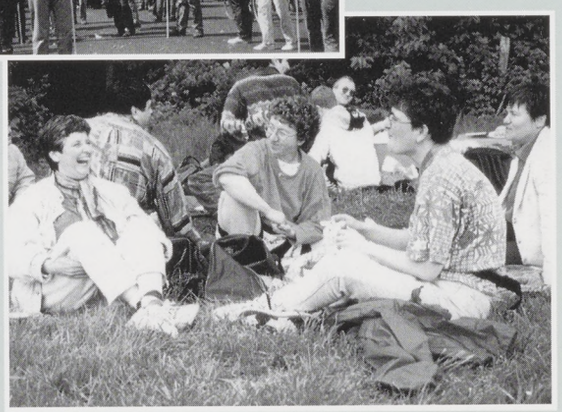
Rev. Caroline Blanco and the congregation of Centre De L'Esprit Liberateur in Paris, France are excited about the recent acquisition of its new building in Paris. The church has struggled in past years to maintain a suitable meeting space. Rental space in Paris is extremely expensive, and it has been difficult to find a suitable facility at any price. But late last year, a property was found that the church felt it could afford.

This was not without considerable sacrifice, however. The loan for the structure must be repaid over a six-year period, a short amount of time under any circumstances. Rev. Blanco feels so strongly about the necessity to pay off this property that she has decided to forego her salary and work on a voluntary basis.

"The church knows about financial problems, but we have decided to assume this financial responsibility. We must be able to welcome our family in Paris; people must see our work," explains Rev. Blanco.

Current projects that are being developed include establishing worship presences at meeting points in other French cities and re-organization of the church's board of directors. The church has also been active in community events and marches, and has held numerous events to attract attention and build recognition.

■ **Above–**Rev. Blanco stands in the church's new facility in Paris. **Left, Below–**The church has been visible in the community, organizing marches and hosting events to raise its presence among local lesbians and gay men.



SAMARITAN

Rev. Sandra Robinson

Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies will be offering Supervising Clergy Training on August 5 and 6 in conjunction with UFMCC Leadership Conference in Burbank. Sessions will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both days.

This training has been developed at the request of the CCCC Team and the General Council. It will equip supervising clergy to conduct supervisory sessions with candidates that allow for healthy feedback and theological reflection on the practice of ministry. The nature of the supervisory relationship will be explored, emphasizing mutual learning and accountability for the supervisor, the candidate, and the teaching church. Some sessions are designed to provide "hands-on" training on how to negotiate a learning contract and how to conduct a supervisory session.

According to the UFMCC credentials document, page 10, "The Supervising Clergy must be a UFMCC credentialed clergyperson with a minimum of three years of successful experience."

For more information and registration forms, contact Samaritan Institute at 214/221-7749, Post Office Box 688, Lewisville, Texas 75067.

619/444-8400 for shipping rates anywhere else worldwide. To subscribe, call 800/333-6506 or write to InJoy Life Club, Leadership Growth Series, Post Office Box 19900, San Diego, California 92159-0900.

HIV-AIDS REV. STEVE PIETERS

Internet AIDS Ministry Resources

UFMCC AIDS Ministry resources are available at <http://www.thebody.com> on the Internet. The Body is cyberspace's first one-stop shop for reaching AIDS experts, organizations, and publications.

In addition to UFMCC AIDS Ministry pamphlets on living with HIV/AIDS, The Body features a biweekly column on Christian Spirituality and HIV/AIDS, written by Rev. Steve Pieters, Field Director of UFMCC AIDS Ministry and editor of *Alert.*

SUGGESTED READING REV. JIM RICHARDS

The Search for "Gay Gene" Continues

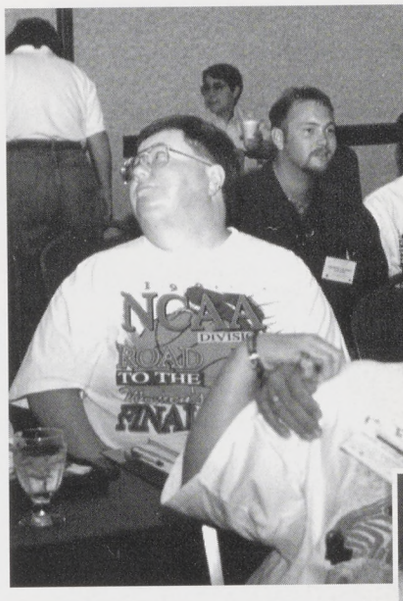
Is homosexuality genetic? Is any part of homosexuality learned? If there is a gay gene, can it be altered? If so, would straights want genetic surgery performed on their potentially gay children? Would gays want genetic surgery for their potentially straight children?

Chandler Burr was a plenary speaker at the 1995 General Conference in Atlanta. A gay man, he is a science journalist who tracks the goings on in the search for the gay gene. His new book, *A Separate Creation: The Search for the Biological Origins of Sexual Orientation* will be published in June by Hyperion, a Walt Disney company.

Burr's 1993 *Atlantic Monthly* cover story, "Homosexuality and Biology," was one of the most widely discussed articles of that year. Another prelude to this book appeared in a December, 1995, cover piece in the *The Advocate.*

The average reader and the student of the biological sciences will both find the book readable. If you want a simple narrative about how the search has gone, or, if you want the scientific details, naming the scientists and describing their research, they both are here.

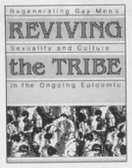
A microchip containing all of the information in an individual's DNA, making it possible to determine, electronically, if the gay gene is present? The silicone valley company that has already developed the technology is named. Biomedical methodology to alter the gene? It's the same research that is now on the verge of producing a cure for breast cancer, Alzheimer's, cystic fibrosis, and Hodgkin's disease, among others. New technologies make it possible, for the first time since the inhumane experiments of Nazi Germany and Japan on living gays, to examine the brains of living gays and lesbians without dissecting them. This book details a subject that will increasingly be a major part of the debate over gay rights.



SUGGESTED READING REV. STEVE PIETERS

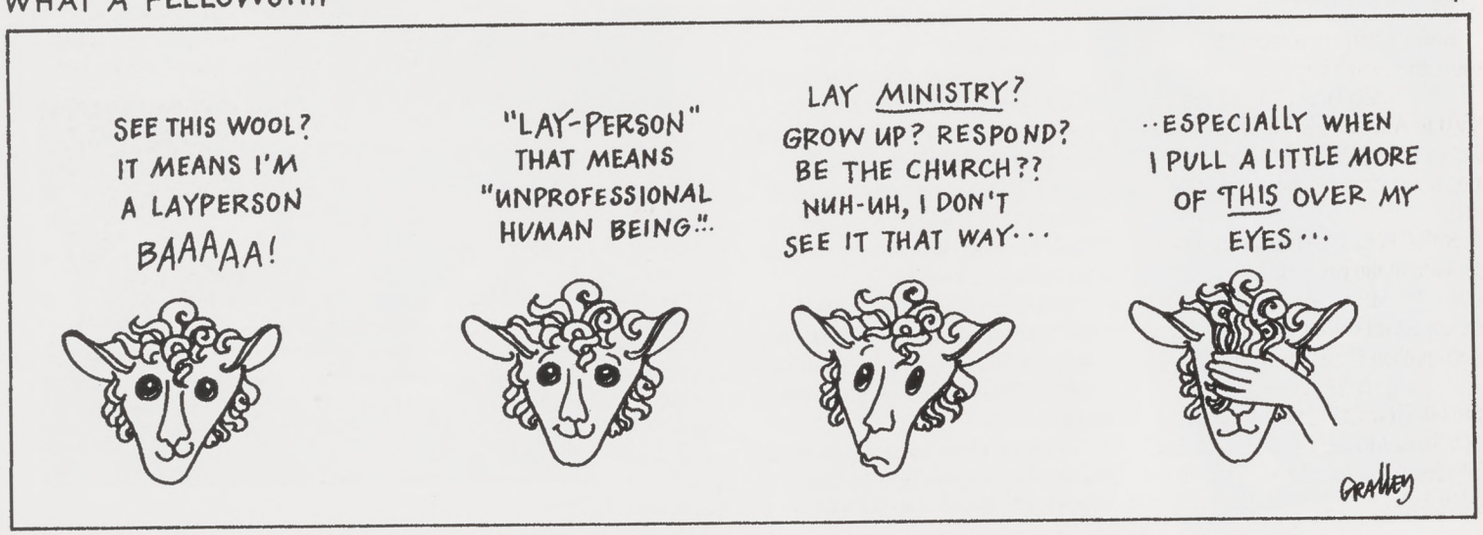
Eric Rofes: Reviving the Tribe

Many leaders of UFMCC are talking about *Reviving the Tribe: Regenerating Gay Men's Sexuality and Culture in the Ongoing Epidemic* by Eric Rofes. This book offers a penetrating analysis of the state of the gay male community after 15 years of living with AIDS. Rofes proposes a



WHAT A FELLOWSHIP

JEAN GRALLEY


SEE THIS WOOL? IT MEANS I'M A LAYPERSON BAAAAA!
"LAY-PERSON" THAT MEANS "UNPROFESSIONAL HUMAN BEING"..
LAY MINISTRY? GROW UP? RESPOND? BE THE CHURCH?? NUH-UH, I DON'T SEE IT THAT WAY...
..ESPECIALLY WHEN I PULL A LITTLE MORE OF THIS OVER MY EYES...
GRALLEY

■ **Top Left–**It's not all work and no play at district conferences. Participants of the South Central gathering at its Austin conference. **Above–**Rev. Eleanor Nealy acknowledges the approval of delegates after her election as coordinator.

number of concrete suggestions for the survival of the community in the face of the devastating effects of AIDS.

Rofes, a veteran community activist and leader, was a keynote speaker at UFMCC's 1995 General Conference XVII in Atlanta. He will be a consultant to UFMCC AIDS Ministry at a long-range planning meeting in July, 1996.

Rofes' book is a challenging look at the state of the gay male community today. His ideas and recommendations are important considerations for every Metropolitan Community Church.

Reviving the Tribe is available through UFMCC Church Resources, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd, Ste. 304, Los Angeles, California 90029 USA; phone 213/464-5100; fax 213/464-2123.

DISTRICTS DR. JEFFREY NYTCH

South Central District Elects Coordinator

At its district conference held in May at Austin, Texas, the South Central District elected Rev. Eleanor Nealy to be its new district coordinator. Rev. Nealy has been on the staff of MCC New York while working as director of the Alcohol/Drug Abuse Intervention and Prevention Service at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center in New York City. Rev. Nealy's election follows the one-year term of Rev. Ed Paul, who served as interim coordinator following the 14-year tenure of Clarke Friesen. Rev. Paul, who received a warm tribute at the conference banquet, will remain on district staff during a transition period, and is then looking for opportunities in Global Outreach. The district approved the formation of a special fund to accept voluntary contributions from churches to fund Rev. Paul's missionary work. Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, has already pledged a monthly contribution to the fund and is encouraging other churches to do the same. Interested churches should contact the South Central District office at 713/869-8817 or over the Internet at scdufmcc@aol.com.

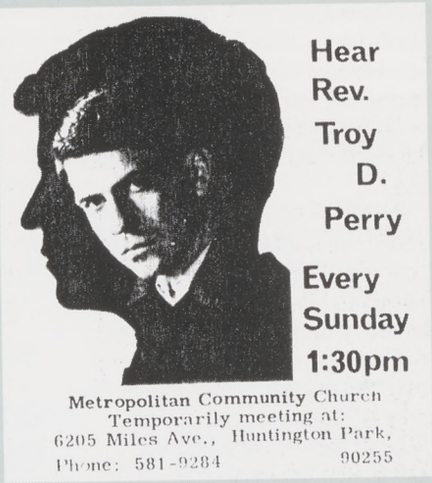
The conference set a record for attendance, and welcomed UFMCC Minister of Justice Rev. Mel White, who presented a plenary session on Saturday as well as Sunday's sermon. Rev. White shared his newly-produced video which responds to numerous false claims concerning the translesbigay community made on "700 Club" broadcasts by Pat Robertson, and encouraged local churches to become active in local justice issues.

The district also held its first ordination ceremony since implementation of the new credentialing process. Eleven individuals were ordained; an additional seven will be ordained at ceremonies in their local church.

A FELLOWSHIP OF**HISTORY**NORM MASON

Ah, It Used to be Soooo Easy. Or Was It?

I was amused recently to notice one of the print advertisements for the new Tom Cruise movie "Mission Impossible." It uses a graphic technique identical to that which appeared in some of the original ads for MCC Los Angeles 27 years ago. In the movie ad, a dark silhouette of Cruise dominates the ad, with a photograph of the actor superimposed on it. The same technique was used by Rev. Troy Perry in ads to publicize the launching of his new church, one of which is reprinted here. We could not get permission to reprint the movie ad.



It makes me wonder sometimes if anything is ever really new, or whether we just recycle old ideas and label them "cutting edge." While pouring through UFMCC archives last summer to compile the General Conference video for the Capital Campaign, I was struck by a headline in the *Advocate* from 1973, "Troy's Church Burns." My first reaction was to wish that MCC today was such a household presence that a national newspaper could use that headline, feeling total confidence that every reader would know who "Troy" was, and what church it was referring to. It seemed on the surface that things were simpler then.

And maybe they were. But simpler may not necessarily have been better. The fact is that there was only one national gay publication twenty years ago, and it had to be very underground in many areas of the country, not at all easy to find. And there was only one church embracing the doctrine that all people are loved by God just as they are.

Today's balance to the simplicity of the past is the vast number of tools that are at our fingertips. There are now numerous national gay/lesbian publications. Each region of the country has a choice of several others. And most urban areas have a variety of local press offerings, reflecting different demographics, interests, and life styles within the community. When you add the possibilities offered on-line, through cable bulletin boards, organizations and newsletters, the potential for reaching our community far outweighs that of years gone by.

Rev. Perry's first advertisement to the captive audience of *Advocate* readers generated a group of twelve persons that October Sunday, a very respectable turnout. Recently, MCC Los Angeles completed a promotional series that nearly doubled its attendance in the course of just three months.

On second thought, maybe the "good *new* days" are okay after all . . .

KEEPING IN TOUCH**MAY-JUNE 1996**

Keeping in Touch is a monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We are a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation. *Keeping in Touch* may be freely copied for distribution in UFMCC. Portions may be reprinted in UFMCC church publications, with attribution. For other distribution, please request permission. Subscriptions are free upon request. Send address changes, news and ideas to: *Keeping in Touch*, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd, #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029; (213) 464-5100. Deadline for each issue: 15th of previous month.

Editorial Board:
Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry, Moderator; Ravi Verma, Director of Administration

Team Members:
Nancy Fackrell, Elsa Martinez, Dana Cagle, Roi Hudson-Anaya.

DISTRICTS REV. ARLENE ACKERMAN

Mid-Atlantic District Meets in Maryland

The Mid-Atlantic District Conference was held May 10 and 11 at Chesapeake Center, a Presbyterian retreat center in Port Deposit, Maryland. Over 200 people attended the conference. The focus for the conference was "Going Deeper: Tapping Our Spiritual Strength" with special guest speakers Rev. Pat Bumgardner and Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein.

The Mid-Atlantic District has a strong commitment to effectively reaching out to our communities, growing our churches and planting new churches. However, if the district is to reach out we must first be sure that our foundation is strong, that our faith taproot is deep. This is why we focused on spiritual depth.

During the three-hour business meeting, Rev. Arlene Ackerman was unanimously reelected district coordinator following a forum at which she shared her vision for the district. Her focus and commitment continue to be on strengthening and supporting local churches, leadership training for both lay and clergy, and intentional birthing of new churches.

Three persons were elected to the ten-member district committee. The treasurer position was left open so that the district committee can find the most qualified person to appoint. Numerous ministry reports were well received. Of special note is the groundwork being laid to begin churches in West Virginia under the direction of Rev. Becky Dickman.

The district committee announced the first church in Delaware, MCC Rehobeth, formerly a parish extension of MCC Washington. It is now averaging 35 to 40 in Sunday attendance. The interim pastoral leader is David Patterson.

DISTRICTS JUDY DALE

Great Lakes District's Conference Extremely Well Attended

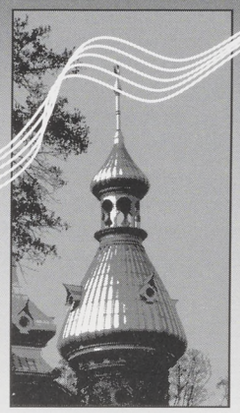
"God, you inhabit the praises of your people" was the theme of the spring Great Lakes District Conference at Chicago in May. The event attracted nearly one fourth of the membership of the entire district, nearly 300 MCC members.

Special guests included Rev. Elder Troy Perry, Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein, Stephanie Heyer from Encounter Missions International, and Cathy Cox, Executive Director of the Indiana Interreligious Commission on Human Equality, of which the district is a member.

Highlights of the weekend included four spirit-filled worship services, 19 workshops and training sessions including topics from racism to training church treasurers, a country store and resource center, a Samaritan class, 11 Board of Ordained Ministries interviews, committee meetings, and district-level UFMCC program meetings.

The two-hour business session attracted 100% of those eligible to vote and received reports from all

Festival V



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■ **Left–**Rev. Elders Troy Perry and Wilhelmina Hein ordained Rev. Donna Brunner and ten others at the recent Great Lakes District Conference. **Below–** Rev. Fran Mayes, left, and Judy Patterson were the Great Lakes District's recipients of Clergyperson and Layperson of the Year awards.

churches, district officers, and those concerning other business.

Results of elections include: Shirley Hayward, North Area Coordinator; Rev. Peter Trabaris, District Clergy Representative; Victor Diaz, District Lay Representative; and Joey Stambaugh, District Clerk.

The traditional banquet and dance featured "Unison," a lesbian and gay chorus. Rev. Elder Perry was present for the presentation of awards: "Clergyperson of the Year" was presented to Rev. Fran Mayes: "Layperson of the Year" was presented to Judy Patterson; "Well Done, Thou Good and Faithful Servant" was presented to Excel of the Great Lakes for their rejuvenation of Excel weekends.

A FELLOWSHIP OF **PEOPLE**

Rev. Fran Mayes: "Straight but Not Narrow"

At the recent Great Lakes District Conference, Rev. Fran Mayes was the

recipient of the district's Clergyperson of the Year Award, another recognition of a remarkable women doing remarkable work within the UFMCC. And she hasn't always stressed the fact that she's a heterosexual wife, mother, and grandmother.

The pastor of MCC Tree of Life in Ypsilanti, Michigan, sometimes wears a pin that says "Straight But Not Narrow" and that mantra seems to sum up her philosophy, and her secret of success.

"I happen to be a heterosexual woman, but I have been adopted into the gay and lesbian community. So I don't try to disassociate myself," she explains.

Upon learning of her calling, many assume that she is a lesbian, which is understandable considering that she's only the second heterosexual woman to pastor a UFMCC church.

Rev. Mayes grew up in New Boston, Michigan, and attended a fundamentalist Baptist church. She wanted to become a missionary some day. Instead, she earned her nursing degree from the University of Michigan in 1967 and taught Lamaze childbirth and infant care classes for 20 years while raising her own four children.

Later, while working as a clinical instructor at a local hospital, she decided to enter the seminary.

"I realized there were a lot of things in my own belief system that I hadn't really studied," she explained. "A lot of things in my faith were there because they'd been there since I was ten. So I decided to go to seminary to clarify my own faith."

Following her ordination by the American Baptist Churches in 1991, she became pastor of a small church in rural Michigan. A year later, Mayes attended a Tree of Life service after two friends who were lesbians said they wanted to go to church, but felt uncomfortable attending a traditional congregation as a couple.

"So I was there to see if this was a church they could relate to," she says. "And from the very first day I walked in, I felt comfortable. Which was very confusing, because I am a heterosexual woman.

Mayes decided that the comfort was due to discovering a group of people who enjoy "diversity and openness."

But it took four weeks to muster the courage to tell the congregation the truth about her sexuality. "It was the reverse of the closet phenomenon," she says, noting that about 20% of those who attend UFMCC services nationwide are heterosexual.

When word got back to her own church that she was an advocate for the gay and lesbian community, Mayes was asked to leave because her views were considered too controversial. Soon after, she was asked to co-pastor Tree of Life, a job she enjoys because she feels so much at home. Her husband of 32 years, Delbert, has since become a member of the church as well.

The service is "definitely Christian" and "liturgical," similar to a Lutheran or Episcopal service, she says. Members come from as far away as Flint, Saginaw, Toledo and Detroit.

Mayes believes that too many people read the Bible as if it's solely an historic narrative. "I'm sometimes accused of devaluing the bible, but I'd say the opposite is true," she says. "Some limit the Bible's ability to transform their lives."

CLASSIFIED

Cost is $15 for the first 25 words or less. Additional words are .70 per word. Numbers and abbreviations count as words. All classifieds must be prepaid in U.S. funds. Deadline is the 15th of month prior to publication. All copy is subject to the approval of the Editorial Board. Appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute endorsement by UFMCC. Mail ads to Keeping In Touch Classifieds, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., No. 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029.

Attention Gay Service Members!
Know your legal rights! Say nothing, sign nothing, and get legal help if you are ever investigated. Call Service Members Legal Defense Network for confidential counseling. 202/328-FAIR.

24 Henry Guesthouse is a serene, non-smoking environment close to everything in San Francisco's Gay Castro District. 800/900-5686. Fax 415/864-0406.

Staff Position Available Maranatha Fellowship MCC in Houston, Texas is looking for a dynamic person to work with Cell Group Leaders, provide ongoing leadership training for interns, develop cell groups in a district area with potential for opening a satellite church. Twenty hours/week initially with potential for full-time position within six months. Excellent opportunity for growth and development using the Cell Group Church Model. For an application or more information write: Rev. Janet Parker, Maranatha Fellowship MCC, 3400 Montrose, Suite 600, Houston, Texas 77006 or call/fax 713/528-6756.

Some Like It Hot! Gentle Shepherd MCC seeks pastor for 150+ member congregation. Letters expressing interest to: P.O. Box 33758, Phoenix, Arizona 85067-3758.

Can't stand another winter in the cold? Christ MCC in beautiful, topical Miami is seeking a spirit-filled senior pastor to lead its energized congregation into a new era of development. Please write: 7701 SW 76 Ave., Miami, Florida 33143.

Jesus MCC, Indianapolis is seeking candidates for a pastoral vacancy. For more information contact: Pam Wence, Chairperson Pastoral Search Committee, 3224 Dogwood Circle South, Indianapolis, Indiana 46268. Phone 317/875-0619 by June 15. All contacts will be kept confidential.

MCC Boston is seeking applicants for Senior Pastor. We are a small congregation with active lay participation and potential for growth. The position initially is part-time, with expectations of moving to full time. We are seeking a pastor committed to inclusiveness and lay participation who can help us grow and become more involved in the community. For more information, write: Pastoral Search Committee, P.O. Box 15590, Kenmore Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02215. Deadline for application submissions is Sept. 1, 1996. Women and people of color are encouraged to apply.

The Southeast District is seeking qualified candidates for the office of District Coordinator. Please contact: District Coordinator Search Committee, c/o St. Luke's MCC, 1140 South McDuff Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32205, U.S.A. Fax 904/389-7626.

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Top 20 Tithes
March 1996

1. Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas $10,158.46
2. MCC of the Resurrection, Houston $5,639.51
3. MCC Washington, Washington $3,142.84
4. MCC of the Rockies, Denver $2,418.18
5. St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville $2,369.08
6. MCC San Francisco, San Francisco $1,757.43
7. MCC New York, New York $1,542.24
8. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach $1,380.99
9. First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta $1,325.05
10. MCC Richmond, Richmond $1,239.00
11. Agape MCC, Fort Worth $1,168.62
12. MCC Charleston, Charleston $1,149.50
13. Harvest MCC, Denton $1,117.50
14. Open Door MCC, Boyds $1,080.93
15. Church of Our Savior MCC, Boca Raton $1,064.50
16. First MCC of Kansas, Wichita $1,051.30
17. MCC of Greater St. Louis, St. Louis $1008.86
18. Holy Cross MCC, Pensacola $1008.63
19. All God's Children MCC, Minneapolis $1006.77
20. MCC Tampa, Tampa $988.67

(These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to Fellowship headquarters.)

Top 20 Per Capita
March 1996

1. MCC of the Disciples, Washington $41.64
2. MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo $40.32
3. Church of the Resurrection MCC, Chicago $39.40
4. Spirit Eagle MCC, Spring Valley $38.47
5. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach $33.12
6. MCC of the Palm Beaches, Palm Beach $25.67
7. MCC of the Gentle Shepherd $24.87
8. MCC of Greater Tulsa, Tulsa $24.18
9. MCC of the Resurrection, Houston $22.59
10. Gentle Souls MCC, Kansas City $22.27
11. St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville $21.66
12. MCC Charleston, Charleston $21.25
13. Eternal Light MCC, Lacey $20.87
14. New Hope MCC, Santa Rosa $20.20
15. Faith Eternal MCC, Springfield $20.10
16. Lexington's MCC, Lexington $20.06
17. Trinity MCC, Arlington $19.92
18. Diablo Valley MCC, Concord $19.10
19. MCC Dayton Parish, Dayton $18.91
20. MCC New York, New York $18.76

(These figures reflect the average individual weekly offerings to the local church.)

Top 20 Tithes
April 1996

1. Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas $8,198.32
2. MCC of the Resurrection, Houston $3,633.53
3. MCC Washington, Washington $2,733.05
4. MCC of the Rockies, Denver $2,066.49
5. St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville $1,810.32
6. MCC New York, New York $1,783.83
7. MCC San Francisco, San Francisco $1,596.28
8. First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta $1,275.01
9. MCC Los Angeles, Los Angeles $1,175.40
10. St. John's MCC, Raleigh $1,148.02
11. Agape MCC, Fort Worth $1,020.74
12. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach $1,019.31
13. MCC Charleston, Charleston $977.06
14. All God's Children MCC, Minneapolis $973.29
15. MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church $875.39
16. Open Door MCC, Boyds $835.04
17. MCC New Haven, New Haven $826.10
18. Holy Cross MCC, Pensacola $823.99
19. MCC Tampa, Tampa $788.20
20. Church of Our Savior MCC, Boca Raton $779.05

(These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to Fellowship headquarters.)

Top 20 Per Capita
April 1996

1. Open Arms MCC, Rochester $46.53
2. MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo $32.13
3. MCC of the Disciples, Washington $32.03
4. MCC Johnson County, Shawnee $31.74
5. MCC of the Gentle Shepherd, Vancouver $30.03
6. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach $25.48
7. Holy Covenant MCC, Hinsdale $25.03
8. MCC of the Living Spring, Eureka Springs $24.68
9. MCC of Greater Tulsa, Tulsa $24.13
10. MCC of the Redwood Empire, Guerneville $22.30
11. Church of the Resurrection MCC, Chicago $21.76
12. Spirit Eagle MCC, Spring Valley $21.64
13. Gentle Souls MCC, Kansas City $21.47
14. MCC New Haven, New Haven $21.24
15. New Life MCC, Charlotte $21.15
16. Holy Cross MCC, Pensacola $20.25
17. MCC Family in Christ, Ft. Collins $20.21
18. Eternal Light MCC, Lacey $20.03
19. MCC Baltimore, Baltimore $19.78
20. Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana $19.00

(These figures reflect the average individual weekly offerings to the local church.)